

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 34, 43 and 73 are currently amended, and claim 74 has been added. After entry of the above amendment, claims 34-37, 40-41, 43-47, 49-55, 61-65 and 73-74 are pending, and claims 1-33, 38-39, 42, 48, 56-60 and 66-72 have been canceled.

Claim 43 has been amended to overcome the objections noted by the examiner.

Claims 34-37, 43-47, 49-52 and 73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Higuchi (WO 92/19488). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 34 and 73 contain the feature that the finger contact projection is structured such that the shift control device is operated by placing two fingers or a finger and a thumb on opposite sides of the finger contact projection such that the rotational axis is sandwiched between the two fingers or the finger and the thumb. The office action states that this feature would be satisfied if a thumb were placed on the inner side portion of projection (10b) and the index finger were to be placed on the other side portion of projection (10b). This is the operating position that is reasonably suggested by Fig. 1 of Higuchi, but clearly the rotational axis at (7) would not be sandwiched between the thumb and index finger in that position. Higuchi clearly neither discloses nor suggests this feature.

Claims 34-37, 40, 41, 44, 49-51, 53 and 73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wechsler (US 3, 965,763) in view of Higuchi. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 34 has been amended to clarify that the finger contact projection protrudes radially inwardly from a radially innermost outer peripheral surface of the dial so that the shift control device is operated by grasping the finger contact projection with the two fingers or the finger and the thumb radially inwardly from the radially innermost outer peripheral surface. Wechsler discloses a bicycle gear shift control device wherein a drum (22) includes radially outwardly extending knobs (32) such that the fingers and/or thumb can be placed between the radially outwardly extending knobs (32) to rotate drum (22). However, there is no way to grasp any of the radially outwardly extending knobs

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(32) with two fingers or a finger and a thumb radially inwardly from the radially innermost outer peripheral surface of drum (22).

Claim 73 has been amended to clarify that the rotational axis is sandwiched between and adjacent to the two fingers or the finger and the thumb. That clearly is not the case during operation of the Wechsler device.

Claims 54-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wechsler in view of Higuchi and White, et al (US 3,398,600). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed because of ultimate dependence of claims 54 and 55 from claim 34.

Claims 61-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wechsler in view of Higuchi and Knop (US 3,766,793).

This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above when discussing the Wechsler and Higuchi obviousness rejection, together with the reasons noted in applicant's previous responses to this basis for rejection.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Deland
Reg. No. 31,242

DELAND LAW OFFICE
P.O. Box 69
Klamath River, California 96050
(530) 465-2430